

above the waves the lamellae fell and covered the eyes." Whalebone, too, has **been** often spoken of as "the fin of a whale," ****** the **finnes that stand, forth of their mouths.** The value of whalebone is still **great, in spite** of various substitutes **which** are now used in its place. In the year "18 9 7, for example, the value of this article was £2000 per ton. As a single "Wiaie may produce several tons of this material, it is not surprising to find that the results of a **whaling** voyage may be very **profitable.**

Fam. 1. *Balaenopteriidae*.—This genus **BalaenopUra** includes the **Borquals**, which are **Whalebone** Whale? of large size, differing from the Right Whales in three **important** external characters: the head is **comparatively** small; there is a dorsal fin; the throat is marked 'by **numerous** longitudinal furrows. The bones of the **cranium are not so arched as in the Right Whales**, and as a consequence the plates of baleen are shorter. The hand is only **four-fingered**. The cervical **vertebrae** are for **the most** part all frca. One of the earliest records of a **Whale** stranded in the **Thames** was probably of a species of this genus in the year 1658, and is **thus** described by John Evelyn:—"A large whale was taken **betwixt** my land butting on the **Thames and Greenewich**, which drew an infinite concourse to see it, by water[^] horse, **coach**, and on foot, **from** London and ail parts. . . . It was killed **with** a **harping yron**, struck in the head, out of which spouted blood and water by two tunnells, and after an horrid groan[©] it ran quite on shore and died. Its length was 58 foot, height 16; black **skinn'd** like coach leather, very small eyes, greate taile, onely two **small finns**, a picked snout, and a **mouth** so wide that divers men might have stood upright in it; no teeth, but suck'd slime **onely** as thro⁹ a grate of that bone which we call whalebone, the fchroate yet so narrow as would not have admitted the least of fishes . . . all of it prodigious, but in nothing more wonderful that an animal of so greate a bulk should be nourished onely by **slime** thro* those grates."

Professor **Collett** has recently given¹ an elaborate account of the characters and habits of this great Whale (*Balaenoptera mu&sulits*). Though a large beast (44 to 67 feet in length) it is

exceeded by
other Borquals ; it is of a dark grey blue colour
above, white, for
the most part, below. The dorsal fin is large and
high; the
flippers relatively slender and small. **The** whole
throat from the

¹ In Frmx